Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for ~~treating a fluid mal-distribution state~~increasing fluid loss through the feces in a host, comprising the step of directly administering to the intestinal tract of the host an effective amount of a water-absorbent polymer for ~~treating a fluid mal-distribution state~~increasing the fluid in the feces, wherein the water-absorbent polymer is capable of absorbing at least 10 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the method is used in the treatment of ~~fluid mal-distribution state is~~ nocturia.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~2~~1, wherein the polymer is enterically coated and the method of delivery is oral administration.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~2~~1, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 20 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of Claim 4~~1~~, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 30 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~5~~1, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 40 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~2~~1, wherein the polymer is formed by polymerizing acrylate containing monomers.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~2~~1, wherein the polymer is formed by polymerizing a monomer comprising acrylic acid or salts thereof.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~2~~1, wherein the polymer is a polysaccharide.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~3~~1, wherein the polymer is enterically coated and the enteric coating is selected from at least one of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, methacrylic acid polymers, or polymers of derivatives of methacrylic acid.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~2~~1, wherein the polymer is placed within an enterically coated capsule.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~11~~1, wherein the polymer is placed within an enterically coated capsule and the enteric coating is selected from at least one of: hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, methacrylic acid polymers, or polymers of derivatives of methacrylic acid.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~fluid mal-distribution state is~~method is used in the treatment of fluid-responsive hypertension.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein the polymer is enterically coated and the method of delivery is oral administration.

Claim 15 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 20 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 16 (original): The method of Claim 15, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 30 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 17 (original): The method of Claim 16, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 40 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 18 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein the polymer is formed by polymerizing acrylate containing monomers.

Claim 19 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein the polymer is formed by polymerizing monomer comprising acrylic acid or salts thereof.

Claim 20 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein the polymer is a polysaccharide.

Claim 21 (original): The method of Claim 14, wherein the enteric coating selected from at least one of:

hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, methacrylic acid polymers, or polymers of derivatives of methacrylic acid.

Claim 22 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein the polymer is placed within an enterically coated capsule.

Claim 23 (original): The method of Claim 22, wherein the enteric coating is selected from at least one of:

hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, methacrylic acid polymers, or polymers of derivatives of methacrylic acid.